Adequate spares support is available for all our weapon systems.

Employment for ex-servicemen

7258. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of ex-servicemen in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan at present;

(b) whether the Union of India have formulated any scheme to give them more opportunities for employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of ex-servicemen provided with employment during the year 1994-95 under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) The number of ex-Servicemen registered with various Zila Sainik Boards in the States of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, are as under:—

State	No. of Ex-Servicemen
Punjab	1,54,102 (As on 31.3.95)
M.P.	21,483 (As on 31.3.95)
U.P.	2,10,885 (As on 31.3.95)
Bihar	43,051 (As on 31.3.95)
Rajasthan	74,029 (As on 31.12.94)

To provide re-employment opportunities in the Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings, following percentage of vacancies are reserved for ex-Servicemen:—

	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
(a) Ministries/ Departments	10%	20%
(b) PSUs/Nationalised Banks	14.5%	24.5%

In Para Military Forces, a reservation of 10% is also provided in posts of Assistant Commandants. Recruitment in Defence Security Corps is primarily earmarked for ex-Servicemen.

The State Governments of the above mentioned States have provided following reservations for ex-Servicemen:—

State	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
Punjab	14%	14%	14%	14%
M.P.	nil	nil	9%	14%
U.P.	8%	8% (For ECOs)	3%	3%
Bihar	nil	nil	nil	nil
Rajasthan	nil	60% (Armed Police)	12.5%	15%

Ex-Servicemen have also been granted relaxation in age and eduational qualifications by the Central Government and State Governments for seeking re-employment.

The number of ex-Servicemen of these States provided re-employment in Central Govt., State Govts. and Public Sector Undetakings etc., during the year 1994 is as udner:—

State	No. of Ex-Servicemen Provided re-employment
Ke	
Punjab	1,834
M.P.	171
U.P.	3,374
Bihar	83
Rajasthan	1,008

Setting up of New Defence Production Unit

7259. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the RIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a new major defence production unit during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the place identified for the location of that unit;

(c) whether Government have a proposal for the expansion of some of the existing defence production units; and

(d) if so, the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Other than completing the ordnance factory at Bolangir there is no proposal to set up any new defence production units;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In view of adequuate production facilities already available, there is no proposal for expansion of the existing production units, but to cater to demands for new productions some investment of balancing nature may have to be made.

Low production of leather items in Ordance Equipment Factory

7260. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ordnance Equipment Factory under the Ordnance Factories Board has been reducing its activities pertaining to leather tanning, saddlery manufacturing and boot plants during the past few years despite the rising trend of requirements of such items by defence forces;

(b) whether Government have enquired into the reasons for bringing down the rate of production in the factory in respect of the above items;

(c) whether as a result the defence forces are unable to secure quality oriented goods and have to depend on private supplies;

(d) whether Government would direct the factory to increase its production rate in leather and related items keeping in view the supplies for boots to Air Force Depot in Avadi by some private parties and consequent losses; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e) No, Sir. In fact, in 1993-94 and 1994-95 the production of boots has been 4 lakhs and 4.35 lakhs respectively against the installed capacity of 4 lakhs. In 1995-96, it is planned to manufacture 4.75 lakhs. However, manufacture of a specific type of boot, Oxford Black (54,000 pairs), demanded by the Air Force could not be undertaken, as the necessary infrastructure is not available in the factory. Production of saddlery items has been reduced as per the declining requirements of the army.

Ballistic Missile Programme

7261. PROF. VIJAY KAMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have abandoned their ballistic missile programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and